BLIND SPOT

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Project Ploughshares at 25 years

Building peace and preventing war for a quarter century

by Ernie Regehr— article ID 9149

It was a thrill to celebrate a quarter century of Ploughshares' peace work with so many friends and supporters at our 25th anniversary event on March 23rd at The Cedars in Waterloo.

Stephen Lewis was our guest speaker, and he spoke with vivid compassion about the global conditions that make our collective witness and concrete peace action more important and urgent than ever. He spoke at length about the extraordinary levels of human suffering in too much of the world, and emphasized the critical role of civil society and organizations like Ploughshares in building a safer and more just world.

Mr. Lewis recognized Project Ploughshares as the "pre-eminent peace organization" in Canada, and reminded us that our work is far from complete. In the face of extraordinary violence and hate, the world seems habitually drawn to respond with still more violence and a seemingly reflexive weaponization of conflict.

Project Ploughshares is an ecumenical agency of the Canadian Council of Churches with a mandate to carry out research, analysis, dialogue, and public education on peace and security issues in Canada and internationally. Our program focusses on four objectives: eliminate nuclear weapons that are a threat to local and global security; progressively reduce the resort to military force in response to political and social conflict; control the supply of arms in order to reduce the availability of the weapons that transform political and social conflict into war and violence; and support positive measures to build conditions of sustainable peace.

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March at City Hall in solidarity with the Palestinian people

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Barter money works

by Greg Roberts — article ID 9125

Imagine a type of money that comes back after you spend it; a type of money that earns or pays no interest, and is of no value to those who would take it out of our community. Impossible, you say? In fact, Kitchener-Waterloo has been circulating this kind of money for almost 10 years now. The money is called BarterDollars, which is the unit of exchange for BarterWorks, a local employment and trading system (LETS). The LETsystem originated in British Columbia in the early 1980's in response to plant closures in a resource town.

Now worldwide in scope, LETsystems offer a local, member-based exchange mechanism that mitigates the inequities of our globalized marketplace. BarterWorks, which operates out of The Working Centre, has a membership of over 160 commercial and personal accounts. Though each member joins for their own reasons, increasingly members are joining BarterWorks out of commitment to link local action and global awareness.

In order for BarterWorks to support a local economy that doesn't recreate the failings of the global marketplace, members have to operate with a different set of values. Specialization, competition, and efficiency are not reinforced within BarterWorks. Rather members operate within a spirit of mutual support, fostering creativity and skill development within each member. It is not that members must demonstrate this commitment to each other, but those who do are more

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OUR PAPER

Blind Spot is the print project of the Kitchener-Waterloo Independent Media Centre (IMC). It is currently published on a (bi?)monthly basis. Initial funds for printing were provided by the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG). We are always looking for feedback, new stories, and volunteers interested in reporting/writing/helping out in other ways. Contact us by phone at **(519) 244-1140** or email: **imc-waterloo-print@indymedia.org**. We are also always looking for financial help — our current printing costs are approximately $0.25 a paper. Donations of any size are welcome; for a minimum donation of $25, you can receive a one-year subscription by mail to Blind Spot, or a bound volume of all 2001 Blind Spot issues (a minimum $50 donation will get you both). To make donations (and receive a tax receipt), send a cheque, payable to "OPIRG" with "imc-waterloo" in the memo line, to: WPIRG; SLC 2139; University of Waterloo; Waterloo, ON, N2L 3G1.

OUR BIAS

The corporate media aren't honest about their biases. They try to pass off their news and reporting as "objective," even though the interests of the owners and advertisers, as well as the personal biases of the reporters and editors shape every word. At the Independent Media Centres, we encourage ordinary people to become the media, and give voice to the concerns of the environmental and social justice movements. We will try to reflect discussions and debates happening within these movements, but with our limited space, we can't cover all perspectives. For the corporate perspective, refer to the corporate media. Anyone can publish articles and comments to our websites:

ontario.indymedia.org and **www.indymedia.org**

It's not only about the occupation

by Colan Schwartz — ariticle ID 9155

Many activists believe that the violence in the Middle East is a direct result of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, and that Israel unilaterally decided to invade the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The situation is actually much more complicated. To obtain a clearer picture, we must view the current situation in an historical context.

In 1947, the United Nations (UN) established the Special Commission on Palestine. After much deliberation, this group recommended the establishment of separate Jewish and Arab states. The Jews were not impressed with this recommendation, but accepted the compromise nevertheless. The Arabs rejected it outright. While the Arabs did constitute a majority in the entire region, the Jews were a majority in the area allotted to them by the UN proposal. Shortly after the UN-announced partition, the Muslim world was called upon by the holy men of Al-Azhar University in Cairo to proclaim a holy war against the Jews. It is also surprising that the chair of the Arab Higher Committee stated that the Arabs would "fight for every inch of their country."

Contrary to popular belief, the occupation came not as a result of Israeli barbarism, but Arab hostility. An alliance was forged between Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon with the Syrian defense Minister proclaiming that "the time has come to enter into a battle of annihilation."

Once the war of 1948 ended, which had been initiated by Arab attacks on Jewish communities in northern Palestine, Israel had hoped to enter into negotiations with the possibility of relinquishing the territories in exchange for peace. The response from the Arab world was quite different. Their leaders assembled in Khartoum and stated, "... no peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no recognition of Israel." UN Resolution 242 clearly recognizes that "every state in the area" has the "right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force." According to the Resolution, Israeli withdrawal is not a prerequisite for the upholding of these rights.

At the Camp David talks in the United States in 2000, Israel offered 95 per cent of the territories, creation of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, the dismantling of most settlements, and the compensation of refugees. Even if this were not a fair offer, it could have at least been a starting point for future negotiations. It was rejected without even a counter offer. Imad Faluji, the Palestinian Authority (PA) Communications Minister, later admitted that the Al-Aksa Intifada, the latest round of violence, "had been planned since Chairman Arafat's return from Camp David, when he turned the tables on the former US president and rejected the American conditions." The Mitchell Report (which was requested by the Palestinians) concluded that "the Sharon visit did not cause the 'Al-Aksa Intifada."

It is difficult however for those Palestinians who truly want peace to make their voices heard. The PA does not appear to strive for solutions through peaceful negotiation. Also, Palestinian religious leaders have publicly expressed racist views against all Jews in the official Palestinian daily newspaper, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, and on Palestinian Television:

"The Day of Resurrection will not arrive until the Muslims make war against the Jews and kill them, and until a Jew hiding behind a rock and tree, and the rock and tree will say: 'Oh Muslim, Oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him!'"

The above was presented by Sheikh Muhammed Abd al Hadi La'afi, Responsible for Religious Teaching and Instruction, and Dr. Muhammed Ibrahim Madi in Friday sermons.

These public announcements are not helpful, and are inciting hatred. It is unfortunate that there are two battles being waged from Palestine. One for independence, and one for the destruction of Israel and removal of the Jews from the area. It will be difficult for Palestine's existence as an autonomous entity to be realized and be accepted by Israel while the second battle is being waged.

This paper consists of articles available on the Ontario web site, at **ontario.indymedia.org**. To find an article, type in the article ID number in the box at the top left of the screen, or use the search tool underneath. Publish your own article online — just click on 'Publish'!

Photo credits: Kevin Smith (pages 1,3); Janice Jim (pages 3,6); Pauline Finch (pages 6,7)

K-W protest against occupation in Palestine

by Kevin Smith — article ID 9122

On Saturday, April 27, a week after a massive anti-war rally in Washington, DC, over 200 people converged at Kitchener City Hall to hear about the worsening situation in the occupied territories of Palestine, and to voice their protest.

While some protestors gathered by the stage to hear speeches, other protestors with placards were by the road, handing out leaflets, and receiving honks of support from passing cars.

People fill the square at Kitchener City Hall, protesting against the occupation.

There were a number of speakers during the day, who had several key messages. They are against oppression by the U.S. and Israel, but not necessarily anti-U.S. or anti-Israel. They asserted that true peace cannot come from negotiation between two unequal parties. If the one party is very strong militarily, and the other is weak, it is more like dictating terms than negotiation. Nonetheless, the last speaker noted that "a powerful army cannot extinguish a people's struggle for independence."

The rally was attended by Palestinians of all ages, and a number of supportive people from the community, including some of the K-W Youth Collective. The police were also present in large numbers for this protest. Some members of the K-W Youth Collective had their bags searched by police at the event.

More on the Middle East:

palestine.indymedia.org

"While professional news sources initially drew blanks on the details of the latest conflict, IMC Palestine was feeding reports live from the streets of Palestine onto the internet. ... It was the first to report that women and children were being used as human shields in front of tanks; that the Israeli army would declare an end to the curfew and then shoot at Palestinians emerging onto the streets; that houses were being bulldozed with people still inside them; that dogs were eating human corpses."

from the April 15 article 'Be the media' posted on the media.guardian.co.uk *web site*

www.alternet.org

War in the Middle East section

www.zmag.org

Middle East Watch

Protests in Washington draw masses

Protests for peace, Palestine, and the poor

by Kevin Smith — article ID 8919

Over 100,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Washington DC on April 20, with a variety of messages for the world's superpower. There were basically three large demonstrations, which ended up converging at various points. One group was calling for the freedom of Palestine. Another called for the end of war in Afghanistan, and no more new wars (in Iraq or North Korea). Another group was educating about the union-busting practices of Coca-Cola and other companies, and also calling for the abolition of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. A new incarnation of the Black Panthers group were also in attendance for this march.

As always, a wide variety of opinions were expressed within the movement. Everyone is calling for a Palestinian state in the Middle East, but some want a separate state for Israel, and others want the two peoples to coexist in a secular state. Some Palestinians equated Sharon's Zionists with Adolf Hitler's Nazis, whereas others compared the Palestinian situation to the black homelands in South Africa under Apartheid. Many Jewish people were there to lament Israel's actions, with signs like "We did not survive Auschwitz to bury Jenin", and "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour" (a quote from Rabbi Hillel).

There were also bands at the side of the road, and spontaneous dancing which happened. One tired protestor lay down for a nap, but kept holding his sign up ("War Criminal Sharon is an obstacle to peace").

The economic protest against the IMF, World Bank, and various companies was fairly small compared to the rest of the demonstration, but certainly left an impact. A wagon-like truck transported protestors carrying signs like "Spank the Bank". At the first convergence point, they did some street theatre,

Over 100,000 people make a statement.

including a mock Annual General Meeting of Coca-Cola, where they bragged to their shareholders about the union-busting they had accomplished throughout the world. The staged meeting came to an abrupt end when some revellers took over the meeting. Many protestors commented later about how much they learned about other people's issues.

Some other issues also surfaced during this march. One protestor bore a sign which read, "Bush… Chavez was chosen by the people; you weren't", protesting the US-backed coup in Venezuela that was overturned 48 hours later.

From the Ground Up

A series of exciting events in the Waterloo region between April 20 and May 12

These events are being organized to bring together community members who are working in diverse ways towards a common goal of a healthier community.

Contact information: Ayal Dinner
phone: (519) 579-3800
email: ayal@wildmail.com

Events

Community Green Energy Workshop
Friday, May 3 — 9am to 5pm
Centre for Core Area Research and Design
70 King Street E., Kitchener

Healthy Communities Forum
Friday, May 3 — 6:30 to 9:00pm
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,
54 Benton St., Kitchener
Saturday, May 4 — 8:30am to 4:30pm
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,
54 Queen St N. Kitchener

Community Vegetarian Feast
Saturday, May 4 — 6:30 to 9pm
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
54 Queen St N. Kitchener

Dandelion Festival
Sunday, May 5 — Noon to 5pm
Waterloo Park
The Pesticide Free Walkabout — 10am to noon

Fellowship for Intentional Community board meeting
Thursday to Sunday, May 9-12
University of Waterloo SLC and MC bldgs

Facilitation training

Saturday April 20 St. Mark's Church

by Greg Macdougall — article ID 9147

Fifty or so local people participated in a Facilitation Training workshop starting off the "From the Ground Up" series of local community-building activities.

The workshop was delivered and facilitated by Tree Bressen, of the Fellowship for Intentional Community. Bressen explained the need for a facilitation workshop: "Most people's associations with meetings are that they're long and boring and frustrating and they waste time. I think that comes out of people not handling meetings in a skillful and effective way. As you learn how to facilitate better and how to participate better, groups can have meetings that are productive, that are upbeat, that are great, fun, and make decisions together well and come out of the meetings feeling energized and not come out of the meeting feeling drained.

"But we don't grow up learning these skills, so a lot of us actually need to learn from a workshop or a book or practice or something, because a lot of us don't grow up in institutions that really encourage this way of relating to each other."

Two primary areas to focus on are: 1) to help each person feel heard; 2) to find the common ground in what different people are saying, and reflect this common ground back to the group.

Workshop participants were actively involved in activities and discussion. To start the day off, everyone had to introduce themselves to the group, with some sort of gesture or movement. Right after lunch, a non-elimination form of musical chairs was played: 'Big Wind Blows.' The day ended with an intuition circle that left participants on a high.

This effectively illustrates one of the principles being taught on the day, that of working with the energy of the group and planning the agenda with that in mind. Another principle was the use of "choice creation" or "dynamic facilitation", which is about going deeper and exploring one person's passion to bring out creative, radical and positive ideas that might otherwise not be voiced. Some questions offered as examples to help draw out people's passions are, "What's the best-case outcome — what do things look like?"; "What would be the first step?"; "If you were in charge, what would you do?"; and "I guarantee you success, so what is it you want to do?"

The concept of consensus was covered. Consensus is a search for unity, not a vote, and is based on a common purpose, openness, democracy, fairness, honesty, simplicity, love and time.

Participants came to build together, and left with a greater understanding of facilitating and communication, and a positive charge of energy. Colan Schwartz commented, "I came here because I'm really interested in facilitation and I think that communication is really important — it's something that as a society we need to work on a little bit more. Working collectively really helps to get problems solved much faster." He also noted the value to "summarize what's happened and also reword things that people have said in such a way that the group will understand and it will help work toward achieving the goal."

Cory Kobbert noted, "It gave a good framework for intuitiveness and to address people's concerns, to understand the exceptions of people who may have opposition to you in a group. I think it is a very crucial aspect of gathering together a community ... to address their special concerns if they're in agreement with the direction that the group is going, or if they're in disagreement, regardless. That can be met with the group ... the power structure is decentralized among the group, and an individual can really have an impact."

Tanya Williams observed how it was important to have "those questions that will allow people to think, envision beyond getting caught up in 'I can't do that' and the barriers that are in the way ... try and get a sense from them of what is really important to them."

The Fellowship for Intentional Communities (web site: www.ic.org) is "a non-profit that promotes cooperative living ...We're a resource organization to help people find communities, and help communities find people ... we're trying to serve a pretty wide set of constituencies and we're an umbrella organization: any group doing any kind of communal living, from co-housing to eco-villages to communes to anything is totally welcome to associate with us and get involved", said Bressen.

Make May 'Pesticide-Free Month'

by Susan Koswan — article ID 9158

Point #1:

I enjoyed a comment from a recent article about an upcoming W5 TV interview with Justin Trudeau. He appears to be a remarkable young man who is igniting Trudeaumania all over again. He's quoted; "This idea that people should expect anything greater of me than of themselves, or of their own sons and daughters and the people in their lives is, I think, another example of the way we tend to look outside ourselves for answers."

Point #2:

A favourite aunt had recommended a book entitled, "If you Meet the Buddha in the Road, Kill Him." A shocking title but echoing the same theme as Justin Trudeau.

What does this have to do with the cosmetic use of pesticides?

Since the Supreme Court decision last year that clarified the legal role of municipalities across the county to "protect the general health and welfare" of their citizens by enacting bylaws restricting the unnecessary use of pesticides, we've been looking to local government to grab that authority and run with it.

A year has gone by, terms of reference for a Region-wide committee looking at pesticide use have been approved — almost — by the seven cities and our recent request to Regional Council for a May moratorium on cosmetic pesticide use on private property was turned down.

Here's where it comes together.

May 2002 is Pesticide-Free Month!

There. I said it. So it must be true. We aren't looking for an "official", we aren't waiting for our political leaders to demonstrate leadership, we are claiming it for ourselves!

How can you make your life pesticide-free? Come to the Pesticide-Free Walkabout and Dandelion Festival on Sunday May 5 in Waterloo Park; buy an EcoLawn Care Starter Kit at a Zehrs Garden Centre, talk to your neighbours and family and friends and politicians (you can see I'm assuming that you are already pesticide-free!). Let them know that pesticides are harmful to human and environmental health and there are alternatives that support biodiversity and create a healthy, safe environment for all living things.

Point #3:

Joey Smallwood studied evangelists who repeated the same simple message over and over until people started believing it. I think advertising uses the same technique. So keep telling yourself and everyone else, "Hey didja know May is pesticide-free month?" — and make it so!

MAY DAY CONFERENCE
Saturday, May 4

the spot,119b King St. W downtown Kitchener
contact: youth_space@hotmail.com, 578-1425

1:30 pm — Presentations by groups from across Ontario
4:00 pm — Dinner
5:00 pm — Panel Speakers:
Ann Hansen (direct action),
Sandra Smith (workers' rights),
Pierre George (Dudley George),
Rozena Maart (oppression)
and others (Palestine, Sept. 11th)

MAY DAY MASS ACTION
8:00 pm — Kitchener City Hall
DJ's, speakers, action

Ploughshares:
Celebrating 25 years of commitment

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Programs of direct engagement with civil society in conflict zones, in exploring new approaches to security and in pursuing resolution of particular conflicts, are designed to support peace efforts, deepen our understanding of conflict issues, and lead to more realistic and effective participation in pursuit of policy alternatives.

I recently spent two weeks in New York at meetings related to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at UN headquarters, and, tragically, while the focus is on strengthening and implementing this key disarmament treaty, much of the talk and the news is about re-militarization and new arms races, notably in space. The US Nuclear Posture Review, leaked in January 2002 will, if implemented, make nuclear weapons active options for war and halt the urgent drive toward their elimination, as the NPT requires. Add to that the US rejection of both the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and the Treaty to ban nuclear weapons testing, together with the possibility that Washington will ask Canada to support and participate in its destabilizing ballistic missile defence system, and it is clear we face a climate of serious regression in nuclear disarmament and a need for urgent action to keep Canada focussed on a clear disarmament path. The just-announced Canadian foreign and defence policy reviews offer a key opportunity in the coming year to redouble our efforts to steer our country along an uncompromising peace path.

In the face of the reality of persistent war, from Afghanistan to the Middle East to Sudan and beyond, and in the face of an apparently enduring commitment to respond to conflict with weapons rather than reconciliation, we know that 25 years of peace work is not so much an achievement as it is the promise of an achievement — the achievement of a world that is more just and less violent.

Ernie Regehr is the Director of Project Ploughshares, at Conrad Grebel University College, at the University of Waterloo.

PROJECT Ploughshares

Visit the web site, www.ploughshares.ca
or contact: *plough@ploughshares.ca* or 888-6541

Local barter system works

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active in trading.

Being active in trading is the key to BarterWorks ability to transform local economies. BarterDollars (like federal dollars) are only scarce when they are not freely circulated. Because BarterDollar accounts do not earn interest, there is little incentive to hoard money. Similarly, because interest is not charged, BarterWorks members are able to purchase goods and services through a form of community credit.

With an active membership it is possible for a local currency to change the character of the local economy. Because BarterDollars are not accepted outside our community they hold little appeal to larger corporations that send profits to the head office or shareholders (wherever they may be). Instead, a local currency will appeal to those small business operators that are interested in fostering relationships within their community. Obviously, this means that other members will look to these local businesses to meet their needs.

The route to economic self-reliance is not an individual pursuit. Without active participation from all sectors in our community, we'll never get there. This is your money and by investing it in your community you can't go wrong. Ask around; find out who will take it, and who might be interested. It is an easy way to see who is interested in the well being of your community and who isn't.

Visit www.barterworks.org, or contact Greg at 749-1911, bworks@barterworks.org

Lotions, potions, notions...
everything from aromatherapy to free-trade products can be found at a typical BarterWorks market day.

Editor of Harper's magazine blasts media

by Janice Jim — article ID 9129
audio: 45 minute interview available online

Lewis Lapham, the editor of Harper's magazine, spoke recently at the University of Waterloo. Lapham has been the editor of Harper's since 1983. He is the author of the "Notebook" column. Lapham's monthly column takes issue with America's government, media, ruling classes and just about anything that is foul in the American empire. He is among the few journalists who have publicly criticized the U.S. war on terror.

Lapham has a less-than-favourable view of the American media. "The object of the major media is to amuse people, not to inform them. They treat their audience as children. You can get away with that if you call the [U.S.] government an empire. Instead of having the emperor put on the games, you have AOL/Time Warner or Fox."

According to Lapham, the very basis of media is wrong. He alludes to the Roman empire to illustrate this point.

"The games in the coliseum were based on high ratings. The affection, endorsement and trust of the people was to be won by amusing them. Today's media is also based on high ratings, and it functions in the same manner to win viewers and garner high ratings."

When asked if there is still a way to get the news, Lapham commented that it requires the active participation of the citizen. The citizen must work at getting the news. They must learn how to read newspapers, and they must also know how to read between the lines. The citizen should make use of the vast amount of government information that is released to the public.

"Ralph Nader is one person that does this well. His books are full of information as to how the government really works."

Lapham has been a vocal critic of the media's coverage of the events of September 11. "The media has become flag-waving and complacent. The complacency — I see it on Fox News, on CNN, on the morning shows. The people I talk to, the everyday citizens, are not as jingoistic as the media portrays them ... it's almost impossible to have dissent under the present system. Where does it show up? It's not going to show up on the networks. It's not going to show up in the movie theatres. It'll show up in small magazines or maybe it'll show up at 2 a.m. on C-SPAN."

The state of media is not going to improve any time soon. Another wave of mergers is expected since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently issued a ruling that relaxes rules on ownership of more than one media outlet in a city. Between 1996 and 2000, media corporations spent $110 million (USD) to lobby Congress.

Lewis Lapham, editor of Harper's magazine

Lapham commented that "the FCC and the Republican government are fond of the corporate interest, mergers and they are also fond of monopolies. I assume that there'll be more of them and they'll make it as easy as possible for the big media to get what the big media wants."

Three BarterWorks members display their offerings at a BarterWorks market day.

Globe and Mail (advertising) supplement

by Greg Macdougall — article ID 9159

The part of the title in brackets is the information you'd be missing if you picked up the Globe and Mail March 11. The Globe and Mail produced a six-page advertising supplement for the Ontario government in conjunction with electricity companies. The problem was, even though this content was paid for, there was no way to tell that it was paid advertising.

Energy Probe's director Tom Adams, along with Randal Marlin of Carleton University, wrote a letter to the Globe and Mail decrying this disguising of paid content:

"Shame on the Globe and Mail for publishing disguised advocacy advertising in its six page "Special Supplement on Ontario's New Electricity Market," appearing in the Monday March 11 2002 issue.

"Nowhere is there an indication in the "supplement" that the material mimicking journalism content outside the ads was paid for and controlled by the advertisers. The authorship of the ads in the piece is clear but the authorship of the text is not disclosed. According to the office of the Energy Minister, the text was collaboratively developed by the government and the companies buying advertising space.

"The Canadian Code of Advertising Standards states under Section 2 that "No advertisement shall be presented in a format or style which conceals its commercial intent." It also states under 1(b) "Advertisements must not omit relevant information which, in the result, is deceptive." Thirdly, section 1(f) states that the advertiser in an advocacy advertisement "must be clearly identified as the advertiser in either or both the audio or video portion of the advocacy advertisement." All of these were violated in letter or spirit by the "supplement.""

Adams and Marlin also filed a complaint to the Advertising Standards Canada, as did Michael Prue, an NDP MP from Toronto.

The Globe was not the only paper to publish the supplement-slash-ad — The Toronto Star, The Hamilton Spectator, Kingston Whig-Standard, Sudbury Northern Life, and Windsor Star also ran a similar version. The information director for Ontario's energy ministry was reported in a Toronto Star article March 30 as saying, the Globe helped "with layout and the whole bit. I'm no expert on placing supplements in newspapers. We relied on the Globe and Mail to advise and guide us. I think they recognize there are some political sensitivities ..."

It also reported the government portion of the bill for the advertisement at $22,000, out of the total cost of $250,000 (with the rest being paid by advertisers and "electricity stakeholders").

As could be expected, the supplement was very one-sided. Ontario's energy minister, John Wilson, was quoted on almost every page. There was no criticism of the government's plans for the electricity market in the entire six pages. Pictures of Harris and Wilson appeared under headlines such as "Strengthening Ontario's electricity sector".

It should be noted that this insert was by far the most amount of coverage given to this issue of opening up the electricity market in Ontario, so it is not hard to see that the Globe is misleading its readers about the true nature of the huge changes being implemented in electricity in Ontario, and that it is doing this misleading straight up for cash.

With files from www.energyprobe.org

Citizens for Renewable Energy workshop and AGM

A win-win proposition in a deregulated electricity market

Sunday, May 26, 2002
YMCA Environmental Learning Centre,
St. Clements (near Waterloo) 699-5100

Registration fee (includes lunch, refreshments)
$40 / person; $60 / couple; $20 / student; under 12 years free
** $10 pre-registration required by May 17
Contact: CFRE c/o Ziggy Kleinau,
Co-ordinator; 462 East Road;
RR#4,Lion's Head; ON, N0H 1W0
Phone/Fax: (519) 795-7725
Email: cfre@web.ca
Web site: www.web.ca/~cfre
Register early for this high-profile event!

Includes the following topics:

Conservation: Renewable Energy's First Commandment
— *Peter Bursztyn, PhD, EAB, Barrie*

Windpower: The latest news from home owners — *Rolf Heckmann / Gundel Minarsch, World Wind Tour Team (invited)*

Living Off-Grid in Saskatchewan — *Gundel Minarsch / Rolf Heckmann, Val Marie*

Building your own Solar Water Heater
— *Didier Perin, CFRE member, Hepworth*

Electricity Deregulation - What's Good About It? — *David Argue, Energy Consultant, CFRE member*

US-backed coup overturned by the people of Venezuela

by Julian Ichim — article 9160

On the morning of April 12th 2002, the President of the Bolivarian republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, was placed under arrest by the military. This coup was a result of an employers' strike that started the previous Tuesday. The employers' strike was led by the Chamber of Commerce and the illegal executive board of the Venezuelan Workers' Federation (who refused to step down after the democratization of the union by Chavez led to a new union election in which they lost). It was a result of changes made by Chavez to the business sector favouring the rights of workers as well as changes to the executive board of the national oil company that would have hurt US interests (Venezuela controls one third of US oil). The armed demonstration was composed of the traditional Venezuelan oligarchical ruling classes whose stranglehold on power was attacked by Chavez's peaceful revolution. They marched to the presidential palace where they were met by pro-Chavez supporters, anti-Chavez snipers on the roof, and the National Guard. At this time, Chavez's attempts to address the nation on national television were illegally taken off the air by the private media monopoly which attempted to incite the people to violence against their democratically-elected president. After the clashing groups met, shots were fired by anti-Chavez forces, leading to a gun battle which left about 12 dead and countless others wounded (most of the dead and wounded were supporters of Chavez). At this point the military stepped in, surrounding the palace and replacing Chavez and his cabinet with a military Junta that rescinded the new constitution of Venezuela as well as the anti-corruption laws and 69 laws aimed to help the lower classes of the country. This military Junta was recognized at once by global economic forces such as the IMF, whose representative Thomas Dawson stated that they will provide all the support that the new government will need. The United States was also happy to have ridded themselves of this maverick Chavez, whose economic policies, refusal to allow a US military base in the country, and friendship with Cuban leader Fidel Castro was a slap in the face to US monopolies and Washington. In fact, not only was the US happy to recognize the collapse of the Bolivarian republic, but they were also happy to help plan it, according to US private intelligence gathering company Stratfor. They point out that both the CIA and the US State Department helped plan his demise. According to Newsweek, Military Junta heads have met with US embassy officials for the last two months. This is further confirmed by New York Times articles, that state that widespread reports also place these military demagogues in meetings with senior officials of the Bush government.

The Events in Venezuela after the coup saw broad masses of people taking to the streets in support of Chavez, engaging in street battles with the National Guard, private sector militia and armed forces. This led to a split in the military, some of which joined the people in the streets and led to the liberation of Chavez and his reinstatement into the office of president on the 41st anniversary of the botched Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Chavez, who won the office of Presidency in two elections with 80 per cent of the votes, stated that now was a time to go over mistakes made and rebuild unity in Venezuela. The US let the world know that it was unhappy with this tum of events and US National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice stated that after these events Chavez must learn his lesson and "correct the erroneous path upon which he previously embarked". Poor Chavez must amend his erroneous ways, which have increased literacy, provided housing and employment to millions of Venezuelans, and made Venezuela into a sovereign republic.

BlindSpot is made available at many locations throughout the K-W area. An effort is made to ensure copies are always available at: WPIRG (University of Waterloo Student Life Centre, 2nd Floor); The Working Centre (43 Queen St, Kitchener); Moody Blues Book Cafe (68 Regina St N, Waterloo); K-W Bookstore (306 King St W, Kitchener); and Old Goat Books (99 King St N, Waterloo).

Activist Calendar

visit **CommunityEvents.ca** for more

FRI. MAY 24, 6 TO 11 PM

K-W Solidarity Network Potluck and Social
Food from 6:00 - 7:30 PM
The Spot, 119-B King St. W., Kitchener
(across from Lyric, upstairs of Juice Bar)
a chance to socialize and discuss what we're doing after the From the Ground Up conference
Info: 244-1140, ontario@indymedia.org, or ontario.indymedia.org/kwsolidarity

SAT. MAY 25, 10 AM TO 2 PM

BarterWorks Market Day
The Working Centre, 43 Queen St. S, Kitchener
Contact 749-1911, bworks@barterworks.org
www.barterworks.org
(see article pages 1,6)

FRI. JUNE 21, 7:30 PM

KW Indymedia 2-year Celebration
Fundraising event
University of Waterloo, Davis Centre room 1351
Join us for an overview of what the KW IMC has done in its two years and what's to come ..
Featuring speakers, films & other entertainment
Info: 244-1140, ontario@indymedia.org

G-8 planning

People are planning groups to go to Ottawa for the protests June 26-27, and also to do local actions for the same time.

MON. MAY 6, 7 PM

KW Take The Capital
the spot, 119b King St. W., Kitchener
Open to anyone planning to go to Ottawa, wanting more information, or wanting to get involved with local organizing
Contacts: phone WPIRG 888-4882 or email
Transportation: Angie (freerang@hotmail.com)
Lodging: Narina (narina@wpirg.org)
Medical/Legal: Calvin (hatrim@sentex.net)
Fundraising: Ben (priestdiesfirst@hotmail.com)

WED. MAY 8, 7 PM

Local Action For Global Justice
The Working Centre, 43 Queen St. S., Kitchener
Contact: localaction4communities@yahoo.ca

Local Action For Global Justice is a newly-formed group from Waterloo region interested in advocating for healthy and sustainable communities, and against corporatist incursion into our rights and freedoms as citizens. We're planning a series of community events at the same time as the G8 summit in Kananaskis.